

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172820

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, YO

SUBJECT: MARKOVIC VISIT: BELOVSKI CALL ON VEST

1. SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST ON JULY 7 TO DISCUSS, (AND MAINLY COMPLAIN) ABOUT PREPARATIONS FOR THE VISIT BY THE YUGOSLAV NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATION HEADED BY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT MARKOVIC. HE WANTED ASSURANCES ON THE PROGRAM AND WAS DISSATISFIED WITH THE LACK OF CERTAINTY. WE WOULD NOT RULE OUT THAT HE MAY RECOMMEND ANOTHER POSTPONEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. BELOVSKI ASKED VEST ABOUT PLANS FOR THE MARKOVIC VISIT AND EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH ASPECTS OF THE PREPARATIONS. HE BLAMED HIS AIDES FOR HAVING PRESENTED HIM WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI BY SETTING UP THE VISIT IN HIS ABSENCE AT AN INCONVENIENT
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TIME. VEST AGREED THAT THE TIMING WAS NOT IDEAL BUT SAID THAT WE RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS DELEGATION.

HE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS ENGAGED IN THE PREPARATIONS AND THAT WE WERE DOING ALL WE COULD TO

ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE VISIT. BELOVSKI QUESTIONED

THIS, ASKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE PROPOSED MEETING WITH THE ACTING SECRETARY. WE EXPLAINED THAT WE EXPECTED THIS MEETING TO LAST FOR HALF AN HOUR OR SO AND TO BE FOLLOWED BY A WORKING MEETING TO BE CHAIRED BY COUNSELLOR NIMETZ, WHO WILL THEN BE THE SECOND RANKING DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL. BELOVSKI SAID THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY TO ATTEND THIS WORKING MEETING IF THE ACTING SECRETARY DID NOT. THEREFORE, HE SAID THAT THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WOULD NOT ATTEND THIS MEETING, LEAVING PERHAPS FIVE OR SIX MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WHO WOULD. VEST SAID THAT THIS WAS OF COURSE UP TO THE YUGOSLAVS, BUT THAT WE WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE FOR SOME SENIOR DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO BE PRESENT (VEST HIMSELF WILL NOT BE IN WASHINGTON), AND THAT DUE TO THE PRESS OF OTHER BUSINESS WE COULD NOT EXPECT THE ACTING SECRETARY TO DEVOTE MORE THAN HALF AN HOUR TO THE DELEGATION.

3. BELOVSKI ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE APPOINTMENTS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, NOTING SARCASTICALLY THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED "THAT SCOUNDREL" PONOMAREV. VEST SAID THAT WE HAD REQUESTED A MEETING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT AT WHICH THE PRESIDENT WOULD DROP IN. BELOVSKI STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF
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THESE MEETINGS AND THE CONSEQUENCES IF THEY DO NOT MATERIALIZE.

4. TURNING TO THE OUT-OF-TOWN PORTION OF THE VISIT, HE SAID THAT SOME SOCIAL FUNCTION MUST BE ARRANGED BY ONE OF THE PRINCIPALS IN CALIFORNIA. WITHOUT THIS, HE SAID, "WHAT IS THE POINT OF GOING THERE? SIGHT-SEEING IS NOT ENOUGH." WE REPLIED THAT GOVERNOR BROWN'S OFFICE HAD RESPONDED POSITIVELY ABOUT A MEETING IN LOS ANGELES (WHERE BROWN WILL THEN BE) AND THAT WE HAD REQUESTED A MEETING WITH MAYOR BRADLEY. THE POSSIBLE MEETING WITH THE GOVERNOR WAS OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE, IN OUR VIEW, EVEN IF IT MEANT GOING TO LOS ANGELES INSTEAD OF SAN FRANCISCO. BELOVSKI

ASKED WHETHER THE MAYOR WOULD HOST SOMETHING, TO WHICH WE REPLIED THAT WE WERE DOUBTFUL BUT WOULD ASK. IF NECESSARY, HE SAID, HE WOULD HOST SOMETHING HIMSELF, BUT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO HAVE SOMETHING.

5. ON CHICAGO, HE SAID HE WAS NOT HAPPY ABOUT HAVING THE GROUP GO THERE AT ALL. SINCE

THE MAYOR WOULD BE ABSENT THERE WOULD BE NO MEETING, AND THERE WAS ALWAYS THE SECURITY PROBLEM. WE NEED, HE SAID, TO BUILD UPON THE COOPERATIVE SPIRIT WHICH HAS PREVAILED IN OUR RELATIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR. ANY DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD HARM THE ATMOSPHERE. HE ASKED US TO "DO SOMETHING" IN THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION, WHICH WOULD ENSURE THAT NO UNTOWARD EVENT OCCURRED. WE NOTED THAT THE GROUP WOULD BE IN CHICAGO LESS THAN ONE DAY, THAT THE VISIT HAD NOT BEEN PUBLICIZED AND THAT THE APPROPRIATE SECURITY PEOPLE HAD BEEN NOTIFIED. WE DID NOT

PROMISE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT INDICATED THAT THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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GO THERE WAS UP TO THE YUGOSLAVS.

6. ON NEW YORK BELOVSKI SAID THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WOULD MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS AND THE VISIT WOULD BE STRICTLY PRIVATE. THEN ON THE AFTERNOON OF SUNDAY, JULY 23, THE GROUP WOULD RETURN TO WASHINGTON TO PICK UP THEIR PLANE FOR THE TRIP BACK TO YUGOSLAVIA.

7. BELOVSKI ASKED TO MEET WITH DAS LUERS NEXT WEEK TO GO OVER SEVERAL "LESS IMPORTANT" ISSUES AND INDICATED THAT ONE OF THESE WOULD BE THE CONGRESSIONAL PROPOSAL FOR A MIHAILOVIC MOVEMENT. THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY, HE SAID, HAD BEEN CALLED BY PEOPLE FROM JACK ANDERSON'S OFFICE AND HE WAS UNSURE HOW TO HANDLE THE QUESTIONS. LUERS SAID THAT DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HAD ALSO BEEN CALLED AND HAD DISCUSSED THE ISSUE AND OUR OPPOSITION TO THE MONUMENT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE BILL IS INTRODUCED EVERY YEAR IN VIRTUALLY THE SAME FORM, BUT THAT WE KNEW OF NOTHING NEW ON THE SUBJECT. (FYI. THE LATEST VERSION OF THE BILL WAS INTRODUCED IN LATE JUNE AND WAS REFERRED TO THE NEDZE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION WHERE NO ACTION IS EXPECTED. THIS SUBJECT, INCLUDING THE JACK ANDERSON CALLS, WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL. END FYI.)

8. COMMENT: BELOVSKI WAS CLEARLY UNHAPPY ABOUT THE LACK OF CERTAINTY IN THE MARKOVIC PROGRAM.

IN VIEW OF BOTH THE TONE AND CONTENT OF BELOVSKI'S REMARKS, HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT RULE OUT THAT HE MAY RECOMMEND TO CONFIDENTIAL

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BELGRADE THAT THE VISIT BE POSTPONED YET AGAIN. WHILE WE WILL ACCOMODATE OURSELVES TO YUGOSLAV WISHES IN THIS CASE WE THINK THIS WOULD BE A BAD DECISION. THE TIMING IS NOT IDEAL, BUT PAST EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS THAT IT NEVER WOULD BE. THOSE WHO NEED TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS VISIT ARE INVOLVED, EVEN IF SOME DETAILS REMAIN TO BE FIXED. WE TAKE THE VISIT SERIOUSLY AND ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE PROGRAM WILL WORK OUT SATISFACTORILY AND THAT THE GROUP WILL HAVE A USEFUL VISIT. WE ARE PLANNING ACCORDINGLY. YOU MAY CONVEY THIS COMMITMENT TO THE YUGOSLAVS.

VANCE

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